

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE CANCER PLAN
BREAST CANCER SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 26, 2002 MEETING**

Attendance:

Kathy Helzlsouer, MD, MHS, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health -
Committee Chair

Abby Karlsen - Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Maryland Affiliate

Eric Whitacre, MD - The Breast Center at Mercy Hospital

Kathy Copertino – Holy Cross Hospital

Stanley Watkins, MD - Annapolis Medical Specialists

Marsha Oakley ? Arm-in-Arm, The Breast Center at Mercy Hospital

- Establish /support patient care guidelines. Different groups of providers may focus on different aspects of care. There needs to be some consensus on who is responsible for which aspects of care and what the minimal guidelines should be. Established practice guidelines can be used as a model.
- We need to be able to evaluate the success of any initiatives that are recommended – How can we determine what is actually happening vs the goals/objectives that are established.

Several areas of concern were discussed:

- Over treatment – Too many women are having open biopsies done when less invasive techniques would be appropriate. We also should look at the methods of lymph node biopsies being used.
- The need for provider training in new techniques / technology / terminology. There are people using new techniques without appropriate training or certification.

The next meeting of the breast cancer committee will be on Tuesday, September 10, 2002 in room 301 at DHMH.